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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/720,868	11/24/2003	Christopher L. Helbling	03-1017	5164

32127 7590 04/20/2007
VERIZON
PATENT MANAGEMENT GROUP
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ARLINGTON, VA 22201-2909

EXAMINER

ADDY, THUAN KNOWLIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/20/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 04/20/2007.

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patents@VERIZON.COM

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/720,868

Applicant(s)

HELBLING ET AL.

Examiner

Thjuan K. Addy

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04/06/07; 02/08/06; 07/20/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Elsey et al (US Patent Application, Pub. No.: 2004/0184593 A1).
2. In regards to claims 1, 32, and 33, Elsey discloses a method, system, and computer-readable medium for obtaining contact information (See pg. 2, paragraph [0020]) comprising: receiving a request for contact-related information (e.g., telephone number) associated with a party, the request including identifying information (e.g., name, email address, etc.) associated with the party; retrieving the contact-related information associated with the party using the identifying information, the contact-related information being different from the identifying information; and performing a process (for example, the process may simply be the connecting the caller to the desired destination/contact or providing the contact-related information to the caller) using the retrieved contact-related information (See pg. 10, paragraph [0103] and pg. 12, paragraph [0130]).

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3. In regards to claim 2, Elsey discloses the method, wherein receiving a request including identifying information comprises receiving a request including one of a name, a telephone number, and a network identifier (See pg. 10, paragraph [0103]).
4. In regards to claim 3, Elsey discloses the method, wherein receiving a request including identifying information comprises receiving a request including an e-mail address (See pg. 10, paragraph [0103]).
5. In regards to claim 4, Elsey discloses the method, wherein receiving a request including identifying information comprises receiving a request including one of an audio signal, a video signal, a photograph, and a digital image (See pg. 12, paragraph [0130]).
6. In regards to claim 5, Elsey discloses the method, wherein retrieving the contact-related information associated with the party comprises retrieving one or more of a home address, a business address, a digital image, an audio signal, a public record, and information associated with relatives of the party (See pg. 7-8, paragraph [0083] and pg. 10, paragraph [0101]).
7. In regards to claim 6, Elsey discloses the method, wherein retrieving the contact-related information comprises retrieving the contact-related information using a search engine (See pg. 7, paragraph [0075] and pg. 15, paragraph [0157]).
8. In regards to claim 7, Elsey discloses the method, wherein retrieving the contact-related information comprises retrieving the contact-related information using an operator network (See pg. 12, paragraph [0130] and pg. 15, paragraph [0157]).

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9. In regards to claim 8, Elsey discloses the method, wherein performing a process comprises adding the contact-related information to an address book (See pg. 4-5, paragraph [0049] and pg. 12, paragraph [0127]).

10. In regards to claim 9, Elsey discloses the method, wherein adding the contact-related information to the address book is performed without user intervention (See pg. 4-5 lines [0049] and pg. 12, paragraph [0127]).

11. In regards to claim 10, Elsey disclose a method for obtaining contact information (See pg. 2, paragraph [0020]), the method comprising: receiving, by a service center (See Fig. 1 and directory assistance system 100), a request initiated by a user for contact information associated with a telephone number; querying, by the service center and in response to the request, a directory means for the contact information; receiving the contact information at the service center (See pg. 12, paragraph [0130]); and storing, via the service center, the contact information in a contact list associated with a user (See pg. 4-5 lines [0049] and pg. 12, paragraph [0127]).

12. In regards to claim 11, Elsey discloses the method, wherein the telephone number for which contact information is requested includes a telephone number associated with a call received by the user (See pg. 4-5, paragraph [0049] and pg. 12, paragraph [0126]).

13. In regards to claim 12, Elsey disclose the method, wherein the telephone number for which contact information is requested includes a telephone number previously dialed by the user (See pg. 4-5 lines [0049] and pg. 12, paragraph [0127]).

14. In regards to claim 13, Elsey discloses the method, wherein the telephone number for which contact information is requested is specified by the user (See pg. 12, paragraph [0130]).

15. In regards to claim 14, Elsey discloses the method, further comprising: providing the user with access to the contact information (See pg. 2, paragraph [0020]).

16. In regards to claims 15, 21, 25, and 27, Elsey discloses in a system having a user terminal (e.g., originating telephone, See Fig. 1), a service center (See Fig. 1 and directory assistance system 100), and a server (See Fig. 1 and DL/C database server 136), a method for obtaining contact information (See pg. 2, paragraph [0020]), the method comprising: receiving, by the service center, a request from the user terminal for contact information associated with a telephone number; forwarding the request from the service center to the server; transmitting, in response to the request, a query including the telephone number from the server through a gateway to a directory means; receiving the contact information by the server via the gateway; forwarding the contact information from the server to the service center (See pg. 7, paragraph [0074] – [0075]); and providing a user with access to the contact information (See pg. 2, paragraph [0020]).

17. In regards to claim 16, Elsey discloses the method, wherein transmitting a query including telephone number from the server includes transmitting a query including the telephone and an identifier associated with a user of the user terminal (See pg. 12, paragraph [0126]).

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18. In regards to claims 17 and 23, Elsey discloses the method and system, wherein receiving the contact information by the server includes receiving the contact information from storage means associated with the directory means (See pg. 7, paragraph [0074]).

19. In regards to claims 18 and 26, Elsey discloses the method and system, wherein receiving the contact information by the server includes receiving at least one of a name, a street, a city, a state, a zip code, a facsimile number, and an e-mail address associated with the telephone number (See pg. 7-8, paragraph [0083] and pg. 10, paragraph [0101]).

20. In regards to claim 19, Elsey discloses the method, wherein providing access to the contact information includes providing the user with access to the contact information via the user terminal (See pg. 7-8, paragraph [0083]).

21. In regards to claims 20 and 28, Elsey discloses the method and system, further comprising: storing the contact information in a contact list maintained by the service center (See pg. 4-5, paragraph [0049] and pg. 12, paragraph [0127]).

22. In regards to claim 22, Elsey discloses the system, wherein the directory means is a directory assistance service maintained by at least one service provider (e.g., operator) (See pg. 12, paragraph [0130]).

23. In regards to claim 24, Elsey discloses the system, wherein the user device is one of a general purpose computer, a personal computer, a Blackberry device, a Ergo Audrey device, a wireless device, and a Personal Digital Assistant (See pg. 7-8, paragraph [0083]).

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24. In regards to claim 29, Elsey discloses the system, wherein the response received by the first server from the directory means and forwarded to the service center indicates that information associated with the telephone number is not available to the public (See pg. 13, paragraph [0138]).

25. In regards to claim 30, Elsey discloses the system, wherein the response received by the first server from the directory means and forwarded to the service center indicates a billing type associated with the telephone number (See pg. 6, paragraph [0070]).

26. In regards to claim 31, Elsey discloses the system, wherein the response received by the first server from the directory means and forwarded to the service center includes at least one error message (See pg. 3, paragraph [0026] and pg. 13, paragraph [0138]).

Conclusion

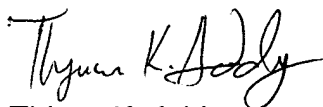
27. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. McGrath et al (US Patent Application, Pub. No.: US 2005/0129208 A1) teach a method for providing enhanced directory assistance upon command using out-of-band signaling. Timmins et al (US Patent Application, Pub. No.: US 2003/0165223 A1) teach a technique for providing a telecommunication service including information assistance.

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28. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thjuan K. Addy whose telephone number is (571) 272-7486. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00pm.

29. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

30. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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Patent Examiner
AU 2614